## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual USOE MLK Contest

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Level Essay Winner** Caroleena Vidal – Draper Park Middle School Essay title " Betray or Trust"

## Betray or Trust?

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This magnificent quote has many different meanings, because everyone is different and all have different opinions and perspectives. Depending on the who, someone will always have a different opinion than you, and I believe this quote reflects on relationships. There are countless feelings and thoughts for each relationship with another: love, hate, sadness, happiness, confusion, or even trust. You may have someone that may despise or even hate you, and want see you crushed and fall into pieces by their dark feelings of hatred for you more than anything.

Even so, such meaningless words, feelings, or actions shouldn't distract you. You must stand tall, and never let it get to you. After all, those will be the least memorable moments when looking back at the battles you fought. Whether you won or not isn't important, but the people who stood by your side throughout those battles are.

The ones who experienced the same feelings and pain will be able to relate with you. Who motivated and cheered you on when you struggled. Helped and comforted you when you had fallen or been defeated. That is the meaning of a true friend. The memories with them will always have much more value in your heart, never to be let go, rather than those of your enemy.

Though, in some cases, friendship will easily be destroyed by betrayal. Silence of dear friends is much louder than the screams and shouts of discouraging words from enemies. This occurs quite often which ends up tearing a friendship apart. It happens usually when a friend simply does nothing while another friend struggles. This feeling is

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referred to as betrayal and described mostly as cruel or selfish. By not helping a friend when they are facing difficult obstacles gives a sign of betrayal meaning that friend may not have many feelings or not care at all for you.

When your enemies try to destroy you, it's much better to have friends to help and accompany you through it. Without a friend to help you, it's most likely that you will be defeated. If this happens to someone, it will be the first thing they notice, instead of their enemy's attacks. To sum up, with this simple, yet powerful quote, he left a legacy on the world. This powerful quote can make a great impact on our lives, to help us realize how important it is to have good friends, who would never betray you. Friends you can trust.